

B. CLAIMS

1 1. (previously amended) A golf club head comprising:
2 a front wall including a rearwardly sloped front strike side and a rear
3 side, the rear side having an upper region and a lower region which are generally
4 coplanar with respect to each other;
5 a sole portion rearwardly extending from the lower region of the rear
6 side, the sole portion including an upwardly extending rear wall having a forwardly
7 facing inner surface, the rear side and the sole portion defining a forwardly extending
8 cavity, the lower region of the rear side of the front wall and the sole portion, including
9 the rear wall, defining a non-through sole portion recess, the recess downwardly
10 extending into the sole portion and interconnected with the cavity, the recess being open
11 in an upward direction and having variable rearward depth, the forwardly facing inner
12 surface of the rear wall being substantially non-parallel, and rearwardly sloped with
13 respect, to the lower region of the rear side of the front wall such that the rearward
14 depth of recess is greatest at its upper open end; and
15 a resilient insert assembly positioned in and substantially filling the
16 recess, the insert assembly coupled to at least one of the sole portion and the lower
17 region of the rear side, the upper region of the rear side being generally uncovered, the
18 insert assembly being fabricated of at least one material, the material having a
19 durometer of between 20 on a Shore A hardness scale and 75 on a Shore D hardness
20 scale.

1 2. (original) The golf club head of claim 1 wherein the at least one material
2 has a durometer of between 70 on a Shore A hardness scale and 60 on a Shore D
3 hardness scale.

1 3. (original) The golf club head of claim 1 wherein the insert assembly
2 includes at least first and second inserts.

1 4. (original) The golf club head of claim 3 wherein the first insert is
2 positioned substantially forward of the second insert within the recess.

1 5. (original) The golf club head of claim 3 wherein the first and second
2 inserts are made of first and second materials respectively and wherein the second
3 material has a durometer that is greater than the durometer of the first material.

1 6. (original) The golf club head of claim 5 wherein the first material has a
2 durometer of between 70 and 80 on a Shore A hardness scale and wherein the second
3 material has a durometer of between 50 and 60 on a Shore D hardness scale.

1 7. (original) The golf club head of claim 3, wherein the first insert includes
2 a first rear surface and the second insert includes a second front surface and wherein the
3 first rear surface engages the second front surface.

1 8. (original) The golf club head of claim 7 wherein the first rear surface of
2 the first insert has at least one rearwardly extending projection and defines at least one
3 forwardly extending indentation and wherein the second front surface of the second
4 insert has at least one corresponding forwardly extending projection and defines at least
5 one corresponding rearwardly extending indentation.

1 9. (original) The golf club head of claim 8 wherein the at least one
2 rearwardly extending projection and the at least one forwardly extending projections
3 each have an end shape selected from the group consisting of a squared end, a
4 triangular end, an arcuate end, a polygonal end, irregular end and combinations
5 thereof.

1 10. (original) The golf club head of claim 1 wherein the insert assembly is
2 affixed to at least one of the sole portion and the lower region of the rear side.

1 11. (original) The golf club head of claim 3 wherein the first and second
2 inserts are each formed of a material selected from the group consisting of a
3 thermoplastic, a thermoset material, an elastomer, a urethane, a polyurethane, a plastic
4 and combinations thereof.

1 12. (original) The golf club head of claim 1 wherein the insert assembly has
2 an exposed surface and wherein the insert assembly includes a cap covering at least a
3 portion of the exposed surface.

1 13. (previously amended) A golf club head comprising:
2 a front wall including a rearwardly sloped front strike side and a rear
3 side, the rear side having an upper region and a lower region which are generally
4 coplanar with respect to each other;
5 a sole portion rearwardly extending from a lower region of the rear side,
6 the sole portion having a lower surface that is substantially entirely continuous, the sole
7 portion including an upwardly extending rear wall having a forwardly facing inner
8 surface, the rear side and the sole portion defining a forwardly extending cavity, the
9 lower region of the rear side of the front wall and the sole portion, including the rear
10 wall, defining a recess, the recess interconnected with the cavity and downwardly
11 extending into the sole portion, the recess being open in an upward direction and having
12 variable rearward depth, the forwardly facing inner surface of the rear wall being
13 substantially non-parallel, and rearwardly sloped with respect, to the lower region of
14 the rear side of the front wall such that the rearward depth of recess is greatest at its
15 upper open end;
16 a first insert; and

17 a second insert contacting the first insert, the first and second inserts
18 positioned only in, and collectively substantially filling, the recess, at least one of the
19 first and second inserts attached to at least one of the sole portion and the lower region
20 of the rear side, the first and second inserts made of first and second elastomeric
21 materials, respectively.

1 14. (original) The golf club head of claim 13 wherein the first insert has a
2 first rear surface, wherein the second insert has a second front surface, and wherein the
3 first rear surface matably engages the second front surface.

1 15. (original) The golf club head of claim 14 wherein the first rear surface
2 of the first insert has at least one rearwardly extending projection and defines at least
3 one forwardly extending indentation and wherein the second front surface of the second
4 insert has at least one forwardly extending projection and defines at least one
5 rearwardly extending indentation.

1 16. (original) The golf club head of claim 15 wherein the at least one
2 rearwardly extending projection and the at least one forwardly extending projections
3 each have an end shape selected from the group consisting of a squared end, a
4 triangular end, an arcuate end, a polygonal end, irregular end and combinations
5 thereof.

1 17. (original) The golf club head of claim 13 wherein the first and second
2 inserts are each formed of a material selected from the group consisting of a
3 thermoplastic, a thermoset material, an elastomer, a urethane, a polyurethane, a plastic
4 and combinations thereof.

1 18. (original) The golf club head of claim 13 wherein the insert assembly
2 has an exposed surface and wherein the insert assembly includes a cap covering at least
3 a portion of the exposed surface.

Claims 19 – 43 were previously cancelled without prejudice.

1 44. (previously amended) A golf club head comprising:
2 a front wall including a rearwardly sloped front strike side and a rear
3 side, the rear side having an upper region and a lower region which are generally
4 coplanar with respect to each other, the lower region of the rear side being substantially
5 parallel to the front strike side;
6 a sole portion rearwardly extending from the lower region of the rear
7 side, the sole portion including an upwardly extending rear wall having a forwardly
8 facing inner surface, the rear side defining a forwardly extending cavity, the lower
9 region of the rear side of the front wall, the forwardly facing inner surface of the rear
10 wall of the sole portion and the sole portion defining a non-through sole portion recess,
11 the recess interconnected with the cavity and being open only in an upward direction,
12 the forwardly facing inner surface of the rear wall being substantially non-parallel, and
13 rearwardly sloped with respect, to the lower region of the rear side of the front wall;
14 and
15 a resilient insert assembly positioned in and substantially filling the
16 recess, the insert assembly coupled to at least one of the sole portion and the lower
17 region of the rear side, the upper region of the rear side being generally uncovered.

1 45. (original) The golf club head of claim 44 wherein the insert assembly is
2 fabricated of at least one material, and wherein the material has a durometer of between
3 20 on a Shore A hardness scale and 75 on a Shore D hardness scale.

1 46. (original) The golf club head of claim 45 wherein the at least one
2 material has a durometer of between 70 on a Shore A hardness scale and 60 on a Shore
3 D hardness scale.

1 47 (original) The golf club head of claim 45 wherein the insert assembly
2 includes first and second inserts, wherein the first and second inserts are made of first

3 and second materials respectively, and wherein the second material has a durometer that
4 is greater than the durometer of the first material.

1 48. (original) The golf club head of claim 47 wherein the first material has a
2 durometer of between 70 and 80 on a Shore A hardness scale and wherein the second
3 material has a durometer of between 50 and 60 on a Shore D hardness scale.

1 49. (original) The golf club head of claim 47 wherein the first and second
2 inserts are each formed of a material selected from the group consisting of a
3 thermoplastic, a thermoset material, an elastomer, a urethane, a polyurethane, a plastic
4 and combinations thereof.

1 50. (original) The golf club head of claim 19 wherein the insert assembly
2 has an exposed surface and wherein the insert assembly includes a cap covering at least
3 a portion of the exposed surface.